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# City Manager's Report

## City of Benicia

**November 17, 2014**

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Welcome to the latest edition of the *City Manager's Report* from City of Benicia City Manager Brad Kilger. The *City Manager's Report* is published twice monthly highlighting the activities of the departments of our full-service city. Previous editions are available on the City of Benicia [City Manager's page](#).

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*Brad*

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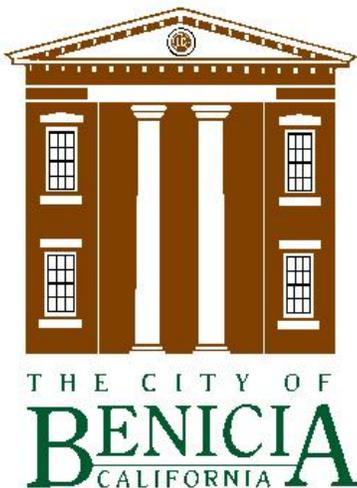
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## Holiday Closure



Benicia City Offices, the Benicia Community Center and the Benicia Public Library will be closed **Thursday and Friday, November 27 & 28** in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Requests for emergency water and sewer service may be made at the Benicia Police Department, 200 East L Street or 707.745.3411. - *City Manager's Office*

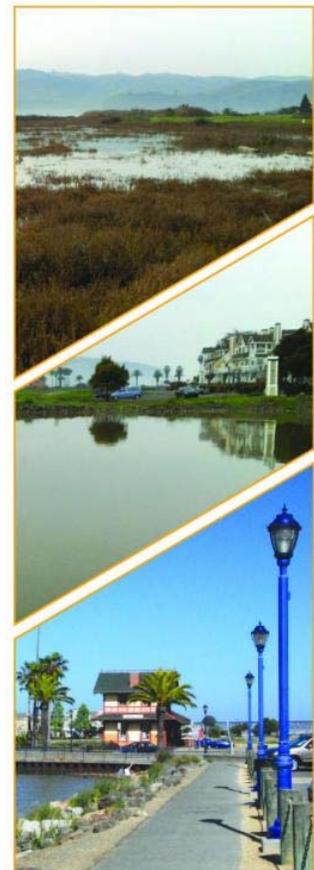
## Open House Climate Change Adaptation

**Thursday, November 20**  
6:00-8:00 PM

Benicia Community Center  
Multipurpose Room  
370 East L Street

With a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy, the City of Benicia is working to assess potential climate change impacts in Benicia. Community members and technical experts have identified "assets" in Benicia that may be vulnerable to expected higher temperatures, rising sea level, and increased flooding during storms, which could impact the city's economic vitality and local ecology.

This [Open House](#) will provide information about potential climate change impacts and give the community an opportunity to exchange ideas about possible "adaptation" strategies to make assets in Benicia more climate-change resilient, including public facilities, neighborhoods, businesses, roadways, and open space areas.



## Partnership with WaterSmart

Benicia was selected as the site for a year-long pilot program in partnership with WaterSmart Software, which provides targeted water conservation information to customers. This pilot project is paid for by the Solano County Water Agency at no cost to the City of Benicia.

WaterSmart Software is a company that assists water utilities by making it easier for their customers to conserve water. They have worked successfully with over 30 water agencies in at least four states, including neighboring Contra Costa Water District, Marin Water District, and EBMUD. The core of the program provides individualized water use information to increase customer awareness of household water use as compared to similar households. WaterSmart provides Home Water Reports and online platforms that use data analytics and behavioral science to deliver water consumption information, messaging and water saving recommendations.



Random samplings of 5,000 Benicia households were selected for the pilot study. The selected households recently received a welcome letter and a water use survey in the mail. Approximately 200 residents provided on-line



The Open House will feature stations describing how key assets may be vulnerable to climate change impacts, as well as "adaptation" options. Community members will be able to spend as much time at each station as they desire, learning and providing input. Based on ideas from the Open House, the next step will be to determine appropriate adaptation strategies for Benicia.

For more information, contact [Alex Porteshawver](mailto:Alex.Porteshawver@solano.gov) at 707.746.4276. - *Community Development*

## Explorers Attend Academy

Benicia Police Department Youth Explorers recently participated in the Solano County Law Enforcement Explorer Academy at the Solano County Sheriff's Office. Over 40 Explorers (age 14-20) attended the three day event. Explorers participated in classroom trainings and hands on scenarios. Training topics included: Traffic Control, Car Stops, Building Searches, Evidence, Firearms, Court Room Testimony, Report Writing and K9 Demo to name a few.

The three day Academy gave the Explorers intense training along with building their confidence and knowledge of law enforcement. - *Police Department*



All six of Benicia's Explorers; John Peters, Maddy Schag, Jerico Campos, Bobby Trung, Kolton Adams and Michael Oreja with Advisors; Sgt. James Laughter, School Resource Officer MarJonne Roberson and Officer Kenyetta Nathaniel.

responses to the survey, with other residents responding via mail. Above is a photo of WaterSmart survey responses via mail.

WaterSmart creates specifically tailored information to participants. In addition to customer water use data provided by City staff, WaterSmart also accesses publicly-available real estate information such as lot size and number of bedrooms to craft targeted information for each customer and to create appropriate peer groups for comparison. Their messaging is based on behavioral psychology research that shows using social norms is the most effective and positive way to influence water use behavior. Customers will receive a Home Water Use report every other month through next summer.

The pilot project will provide customers access to an online portal which contains information about their water use history, as well as water conservation methods and additional programs. The online portal also provides City staff with tools for hotline call management and analyzing customer data. - *Public Works*

### Personnel News



Teresa Olson has joined the Public Works team as the Administrative Secretary. Teresa brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her new job. She has been with the City for 17 years, most recently working in the Community Development Department. She holds two degrees - a Masters in Criminal Justice from



Explorers stand at attention during morning uniform inspection.

### New Benicia Businesses

The following is a list of new business license applications for newly licensed businesses or businesses with new locations or owners. Please stop by and make them feel welcome:

- **Best Overnite Express** - 345 Industrial Way, owners: William K. Applebee and Lisa M. Applebee
- **Fairway Independent Mortgage Corp** - 110 East D Street, Ste D, owner: Steven Jackson
- **Healthy Holistics** - 1350 Hayes Street Suit A-13, owner: Laurie Holland
- **Playing to Learn Childcare LLC** - 1305 West 2nd Street, owner: Deanna Mitchell
- **Salt Atlas.US** - 2076 Columbus Parkway, owner: Kate Fewx
- **Solano Pacific Mortgage, a Division of Pinnacle Capital Mortgage** - 1350 Hayes Street, Ste C1-DD, owner: Leslie Sing



- *Economic Development*

### Fire Department Monthly Report Available



The Benicia Fire Department's monthly report for October 2014 is now available. It contains information about Emergency Operations, Training, and Prevention. [Click here](#) to read the report. - *Fire Department*

Sacramento State and a Bachelor in Business Management from St. Mary's College.

Teresa is married and has twin sons age 20 and a 12 year old daughter. In her spare time, Teresa enjoys traveling and watching football.

Please join me in welcoming Teresa to the Public Works Department.  
- *Public Works*

## HERO Financing Makes Sense

Through a partnership with the City of Benicia, HERO is available to Benicia residents as an affordable way to make energy efficient, water efficient, and renewable energy upgrades to your home. Use HERO to finance renovation projects that can increase your property value, lower your monthly utility bills, and contribute to making your community more energy independent. 150,000 projects qualify and you make the payments through your property taxes.

Applying for HERO is fast and simple. There is no cost to apply and in less than 2 minutes you can find out how much your home qualifies for. HERO offers low-fixed interest rates and flexible payment terms. Get started with HERO today!

[Click here](#) for more information and a short video. - *Community Development*



## SolTrans Holiday Update

SolTrans will not operate regular, fixed route service on Thanksgiving Day, **Thursday, November 27.**

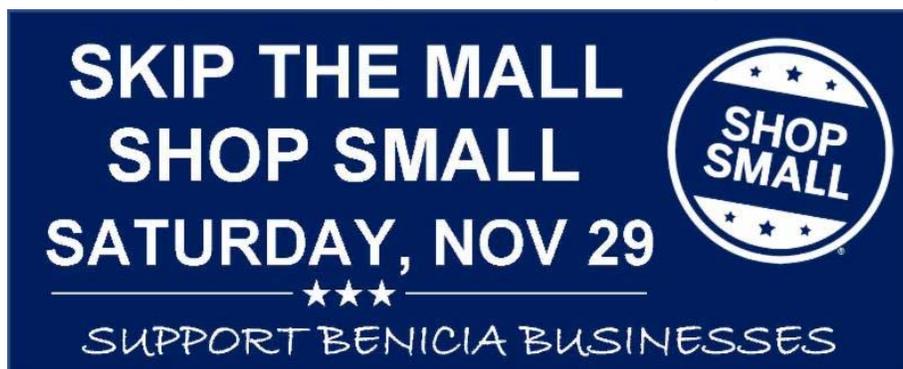
The Day after Thanksgiving,

## Shop Small-Small Business Saturday

Small Business Saturday encourages shoppers to skip the mall, shop small (local small businesses, that is) on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

The first Small Business Saturday was held in 2010. Created by American Express, Small Business Saturday is the cornerstone of American Express's Shop Small efforts. In 2011 the U.S. Senate officially recognized the day. From Washington, D.C., to Washington State, governors, mayors, senators, and even President Obama all voiced their support for Small Business Saturday. It encouraged people across the country to support small, local businesses, and started a holiday shopping tradition on the first Saturday after Thanksgiving.

The single day has grown into a powerful movement, and more people are taking part than ever before. This year, the big day is **Nov 29**. It is estimated that \$5.5 Billion will be spent at small independent businesses on that day.



While Small Business Saturday is highlighted as a special day when we can show our support as a nation for small business owners and our communities, the Shop Small Movement is a year-round campaign to celebrate and support small businesses every day and help communities thrive.

American Express has created resources that can help businesses stand out and reach and attract new customers throughout the year through collateral material such as shopping bags, signs, door maps, pet bandanas, signage, event planning and more. These resources are fully funded by American Express and are provided to [qualifying small merchants](#) at no additional cost. As a Neighborhood Champions (business associations, state and local chambers of commerce, and other community organizers who are willing to commit to rally their neighborhoods for Small Business Saturday.), the City of Benicia along with Benicia Main Street have received a large shipment of collateral material that will be distributed to some of the more than 60 businesses participating in the downtown alone. City of Benicia Economic Development Board Members will distribute for the City of Benicia and the Benicia Chamber of Commerce will be distributing throughout the rest of the city.

It should be noted that merchants need not accept American Express to participate in Small Business Saturday and shopper need not shop with an American Express card to support local businesses but may benefit from special offers that day by registering their card.

Look for the Shop Small logo, try to snag one of the canvas shopping bags by designer Rebecca Minkoff and keep your local money working local. - *Economic Development*

**Friday, November 28**, SolTrans will operate on a holiday Saturday schedule.

Effective Friday, November 28 through Sunday, November 30 (Note: No bus service on Thanksgiving Day.) Take advantage of the low bus fares to kick-off your holiday shopping season this Thanksgiving weekend.

**\$0.25 LOCAL CASH FARE or \$1.00 LOCAL DAY PASSES**

Promotional Day Passes are available for purchase on board local buses. - *City Manager's Office*

## Valero Training Exercise

On November 12 and 13, the Valero Benicia Refinery hosted their annual table top training exercise. This year's training was their Worst Case Discharge Exercise. The exercise was facilitated by Witt/O'Brien's, a consulting firm specializing in preparedness, crisis management, and disaster response and recovery. Participants in the exercise included representatives from the US Coast Guard, California Fish & Game, California Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR), Solano County Environmental Health Division, Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services, and Valero Refinery staff. Command personnel from the Benicia Police and Fire Departments also participated in the exercise.

The intent of the exercise was to provide personnel and agencies the opportunity to respond to a spill scenario utilizing Valero's Oil Spill Contingency Plan. It also allowed participants the opportunity to review and practice elements of incident management using the principles of the California Incident Command System and the National Incident Management System. Conducting such exercises in a learning environment allows all of the participants to exercise their plans and procedures for responding to an actual incident. - *Fire Department*



## City of Benicia Job Opportunities

The Human Resources Department is accepting applications for the following positions:

- [Recreation Leader II - Youth Basketball](#) (part time) - closing **November 30**
- [Principal Engineer/Senior Civil Engineer](#) - (can be filled at either level) closing **December 17**
- [Police Officer - Lateral](#) - open continuously

To apply, the application and supplemental forms can be filed online at: <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/benicia/default.cfm>. City of Benicia employment applications may also be obtained from and must be returned to the Human Resources Department at 250 East L Street, Benicia.



These job opportunities are open to any current City of Benicia employees (full or part time) as well as the general public. If you know of someone who may be interested in applying, please let them know. - *Human Resources*

## Fire Service Training

On November 5, the Benicia Fire Department hosted an all-day training session at the Benicia Community Center. The training was attended by approximately 75 fire personnel from throughout the state, including one individual that works in Riverside. The class was taught by Dave Dodson, a nationally recognized fire service presenter. Dave spent his career in Colorado before retiring from the Loveland Fire Department as a Battalion Chief/Safety Officer. The presentation "The Art of Reading Smoke" provided a full day of education intended to enhance the firefighter's ability to make good decisions relating to fire ground strategy and tactics. The ability to read smoke provides information to firefighters, including the location and intensity of the fire. Most importantly, the training provided the attendees with additional



information that they can use in the future to ensure the safety of themselves and the public.

The Fire Department extends thanks to the Benicia Parks & Community Services Department staff for the use of their facility and the support they provided throughout the day. - *Fire Department*

## Update from Public Works

**Here's a look at what the Public Works Department was up to October. Perhaps they were in your neighborhood?**

### Maintenance - Streets:

- **Patch Paving:** Gateway Plaza, Sherman Drive, Lori Drive, La Cruz, East Fifth Street, Tiny Tots Playground, East Fifth Street at La Prenda, O'Hare at East N Street, Ninth Street Alley
- **Weed Abatement:** Columbus Parkway at Rose Drive, Cambridge sewer bench roads, East E street parking lot, McAllister land bridge access road
- **Cracking Sealing:** East Second Street n/b and s/b lanes
- **Potholes Filled:** Nine potholes on Southampton Road
- **Miscellaneous:** Special event setup for Benicia High School Homecoming Parade, Farmers Market setup, remove and pour sidewalk at Benicia Marina

### Maintenance - Sewer Collection:

- **Customer Service Calls:** 900 West Sixth Street, 100 El Bonito, 1200 East Third Street alley, 800 West I Street, 200 West M Street, 100 East B Street, 100, First Street, 400 Vista Court, 700 Primrose Lane, 1400 O'Hare Drive, 500 Cove Way, 100 La Cruz, 100 Buena Vista
- **Lift Station Cleanings:** Parkway Plaza, Cambridge Drive, Southampton Road
- **Repairs and Improvements:** Back-to-back rodding inlets were

installed on the 1200 block of East 3rd Street in order to gain access to a previously inaccessible main for routine cleaning. A new clean out riser was installed in the sidewalk on the 700 block of Primrose Lane. The previous riser may have been damaged during installation which prevented access for maintenance activities.

- **City Wide Cleanings:** Service Calls 3,307', Scheduled 11,155'

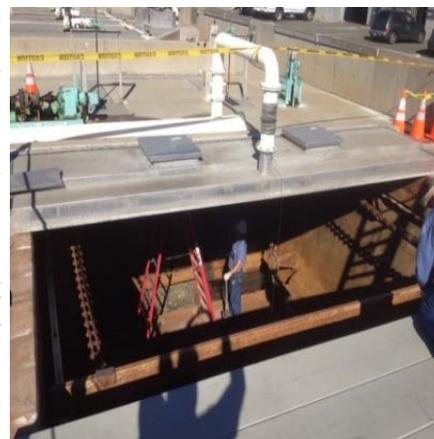
#### Maintenance - Water:

- **Replaced Fire Hydrant:** 300 East E Street, Buena Vista at Alta Loma, Industrial Way
- **Replaced Air Release Valve:** Green Valley Road raw water line-drainage near I-80/I680, Lopes Rd-Construction Contractor
- **Service Line Replaced:** 200 Seaview, 400 Campas Court
- **Repaired Water Main:** East Fifth at Vista Grande, Francesca Court
- **Customer Side Leak:** 800 West K Street
- **Shut Down Fire System:** 400 Industrial Way



#### Maintenance- Waste Water Treatment Plant:

- **Projects:** Staff has a new chlorine tank which was installed last month all plumed in with all new piping and it is up and running.
- Staff worked on the plant primary clarifiers that were having some problems. Staff replaced the parts and the clarifiers are back in service.
- **Maintenance:** Staff performed fifty-two preventive maintenance task as well as successfully closing six corrective maintenance work orders.



#### WWTP Plant Performance:

- 364 samples analyzed and collected
- 1,195 tests (analyses) performed
- 28 different test methods used
- **Special projects:** 10 samples from Storm Water system outfalls as part of new NPDES Permit
- The plant processed 69.4 million gallons of raw wastewater with no permit exceedances.
- Nutrient pollution removal- Biological Oxygen Demand = 98.8 % and Total Suspended Solids = 99.1 %

- Public Works

# Contact Info

Email your questions or comments to City Manager Brad Kilger at [edev@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:edev@ci.benicia.ca.us). For additional information on any of the items in this report, please contact one of the following departments:

[City Manager/Human Resources/I.T./City Clerk](#): 707.746.4200

[City Attorney](#): 707.746.4216

[Community Development](#): 707.746.4280

[Economic Development](#): 707.746.4202

[Finance Department](#): 707.746.4225

[Fire Department](#): 707.746.4275

[Library](#): 707.746.4343

[Parks & Community Services](#): 707.746.4285

[Police Department](#): 707.746.4265

[Public Works](#): 707.746.4240

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